African American Elders Project

Aging and Disability Services

Human Services Department

City of Seattle

Background & History

- **Seattle's African Americans age 60+ grew by 32% between 1980-1990.**

- **One in four African Americans 60+ have incomes below 125% of poverty.**

- **African Americans experience disparities in the burden of illness and death compared to the population as a whole.**

Background & History cont.

- **In 1994, a community-driven initiative began to address the needs of Seattle's older African Americans.**

- **Mayor Norm Rice led the effort to focus on the needs of hard-to-reach, isolated, frail elders.**

The MCAAE

- **The Mayor's Council on African American Elders is a 12-member body charged to:**
  - Review plans/reports related to the project
  - Advise the Mayor and other City officials.
  - Engage the community in activities related to its elders.

The AAEP

- **The African American Elders Project was implemented in 1997.**

- **Goal:**
  - **To identify frail, isolated older African Americans and assist them in accessing and obtaining needed social and health services, through comprehensive case management support and referral.**
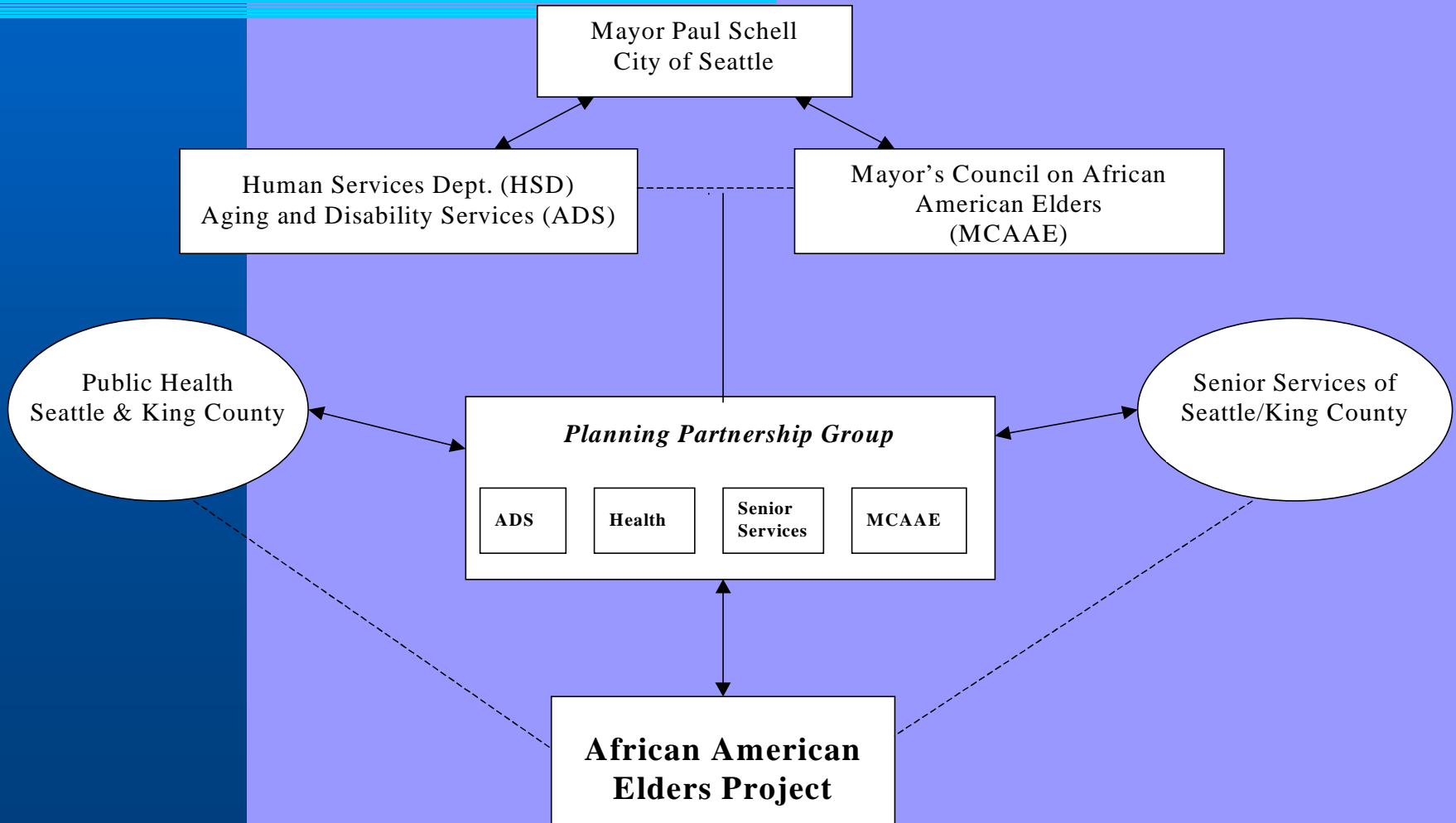
Target Population

AAEP seeks to identify African Americans who are:

- 60 years and older
- Low-income or below poverty level
- Isolated within the community, lacking formal and informal support systems
- Chronically ill, frail, or disabled
- Not able to obtain services, or perform activities of daily living
- In need of multiple services in order to remain in their home and community

Client Characteristics

- **76% - Female; 24% - Male**
- **61% - 75 years of age and older**
- **51% - So. Seattle; 49% - Central Seattle**
- **60% - < $839 per month**
- **Diagnosis**
  - **24% - Heart Disease**   **- 20% - Arthritis**
  - **19% - Diabetes**   **- 13% - Cancer**
  - **11% - Alzheimer's or Dementia**

AAEP Partnership Model

Mayor Paul Schell
City of Seattle

Human Services Dept. (HSD)
Aging and Disability Services (ADS)

Mayor's Council on African
American Elders
(MCAAE)

Public Health
Seattle & King County

Senior Services of
Seattle/King County

Planning Partnership Group

| ADS | Health | Senior Services | MCAAE |

**African American
Elders Project**

AAEP Partners & Staff

- **Aging and Disability Services provides (2) Case Managers**

- **Public Health: Seattle-King County provides (1) Public Health Nurse**

- **Senior Services - Provides (1) Outreach Staff and (1) Community Support Specialist**

- **This is the first time these partners have come together to focus on services for Seattle's African American Elders.**

Project Budget

	Direct	In-kind	Total
Aging and Disability Services	$152,522	$15,567	$168,089
Public Health: Seattle & KC		$73,000	$73,000
Senior Services	$86,144	$50,657	$136,801
TOTAL	$238,666	$139,224	$377,890.00

1999 Accomplishments

Bringing African-American seniors brighter, longer lives

by Marsha King
Seattle Times staff reporter (7-13-99)

Eugene Martin spent his life strong and energetic, hauling blocks of ice as a teen in Kansas, fighting in Italy during World War II, tending boilers on Navy ships and tramp steamers.

But old age found him passive and depressed, living in one squalid room.

Years earlier, he had left his Central Area home for Georgetown to escape the crime rate and the loneliness he felt in the wake of his wife's death.

"I just couldn't stand being around the place," Martin says.

His weight ballooned to 360 pounds. Along with two heart attacks, he had diabetes, glaucoma, hypertension, arthritis and asbestos poisoning. And then his knee gave out.

Steve Ringman © The Seattle Times

Social worker Sandre Geyen talks with Eugene Martin in his new apartment as she checks swelling in his right hand.

1999 Accomplishments

Total number clients served during 1999:

- **Outreach Contacts - 12,731**
   (Neighborhood canvassing, mailings, etc.)
- **AAEP Intake line - 298**
- **Case Management Cases- 264 (112 new)**
- **Public Health Nurse Visits - 368 (duplicate)**
- **Outreach Assistance Cases - 145**
- **Volunteer Pool - 57 (26 matches)**

1999 Accomplishments

- **1999 Diversity Awards**
- **1999 Seattle Works! Awards**
- **1999 HSD Maximum Achievement Awards**

Challenges Ahead

- **Multiple health issues and increasing frailty of clients.**

- **Enhance coordination among partners.**

- **Additional staff resources**
  - **Public Health Nurse**
  - **Case Managers**

2000 Goals

- **AAEP Project Evaluation**
- **Database Development - Accessible by each partnering agency**
- **MCAAE Nonprofit Status**
- **AAEP Website Completed**